



MONTEREY NEWS

October 1999
VOLUME XXIX • Number 10



The Town

The annual Firemen's Ball fundraiser will be held Saturday, October 9, at the Fire Hall. The evening will include a "get acquainted hour" with drinks and snacks from 7:30–8:30 p.m. and dancing until 11:00. Reservations are required. For tickets and information call Ray Tryon at 528-2982.

The Monterey Volunteer Fire Department was called to fight a structure fire at Alan Green's property on Lime Rock Lane in the wee hours of Sunday morning, September 19. While unable to save the building, the Fire Department was able to control the fire so that neither of the two other structures nearby was damaged.

Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) reach an understanding. A discussion about a special building permit brought many members of both boards to an informal meeting with the Select Board on Monday, September 13. At issue was interpretation of the By-laws governing a building permit for work on a non-conforming building on Lake Garfield. Both Peter Murkett of the ZBA and Fred Chapman of the Planning Board agreed that "many missteps were taken" at various stages of the permit process. Mr. Murkett indicated a sense that these missteps had the effect of canceling each other out. He said, "In our minds [the ZBA's], hearing the facts of the matter, the property was non-conforming and the work being done required a special permit." The ZBA found that the work planned falls within the restrictions of the Bylaws.



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Gould Farm Scene: Veronica, Eliza, and Jacob Markwood

Mr. Chapman of the Planning Board, on the other hand, expressed concerns that the ZBA may not have addressed itself to all findings listed in



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the Bylaws. He expressed many of his concerns at the September 13 meeting.

This reporter spoke with several members of each board and all agreed that many procedural errors were made in the permit process, and, while not all differences of opinion are re-

solved, many of them were aired. Some positive outcomes of the discussion are that the Zoning Board of Appeals has reinstituted regular bi-monthly meetings, to begin on November 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Offices, and to be held the second Friday of the month. They have also pledged to continue to keep abreast of the changing state zoning regulations. The ZBA invites any citizens who wish to get clarity on zoning Bylaws or other issues to attend these meetings and bring their questions.

On the Planning Board side, the board has determined that all setback measurements and building plan dimensions will need to be verified by a surveyor, to avoid discrepancies. They also feel that these discussions have greatly enhanced communication between the two boards and that this will be to the good of all.

Roadwork is progressing on Tyringham Road. Work was delayed a few days due to rains associated with Hurricane Floyd. And because of prior commitments the blacktoppers will not be able to complete the resurfacing until the second week in October, according to Gareth Backhaus.

New F550 town truck bids were opened at the September 13 Select Board meeting. The bid from Framingham Ford combined with savings already actualized on the equipment purchased earlier in the year brought the total spending for the Highway Department in well under budget.

— Amy B. Goldfarb



Lake Garfield Drawdown

The Select Board has announced that a flood-control drawdown of Lake Garfield will commence on October 1, 1999, and a full drawdown will be completed by October 15, 1999 (unless terminated earlier by the Department of Environmental Protection). Refilling will be accomplished on or about February 15, 2000, barring late-spring flood danger.

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Gray Citizens' Council

Elder citizens: ask not what your town can do for you, but rather, what you can do for your town.

Much attention and deference is given in the United States to elders—those of us in their mid-50s and older. At the same time, advances in medical science allow more people to live long enough to become elders and have made it possible for many to maintain active, mobile lives well into their retirement years. Recognizing that this group of people is a valuable resource for the community, the Monterey Council on Aging has formed the Monterey Gray Citizens' Council (MGCC).

The MGCC—current membership includes Shirley Olds, Zed Pine, June Thomas, and Cynthia Weber—will attempt to enlist the elders of Monterey in finding ways to serve each other and the community as a whole. A survey of elders will be mailed out early in October to discover 1) what services the elders in Monterey would like to see instituted or continued for themselves; 2) how the elders themselves might provide those services for one another; and 3) what other ways the elders of Monterey might serve the larger community.

Everyone who receives the survey form is urged to answer it as completely as possible and return it to the Town Hall. If any reader knows of an elder who might need assistance in completing the form, please offer your help. Citizens of all ages are welcome to join this experiment in community building. Watch these pages for further developments.

— Zed Pine

Solid Waste News

Hazardous Waste Collection

A household hazardous waste collection day has been set for Saturday, October 16, at the Great Barrington Transfer Station. We know everyone in town has been saving their HHW and waiting for this notice.

It is most likely that, to avoid long lines, preregistration will be adopted once again. It seems to work well. For more information on that, and anything else ecological, call CET (Center for Ecological Technology) at 1-800-238-1211. Ask for Jamie or Joy.

What is HHW? These wastes are such things as pesticides, herbicides, paint thinners, oil paint, adhesives, chemical fertilizers, photo chemicals, and other items that cause air or water pollution when added to landfills or incinerators. These items should be saved until they can be properly disposed of. **Do not bring latex paint, batteries, gas or propane containers.** Check the Town Hall, General Store, or post office for flyers with added information.

And good news on the household hazardous waste front. A BIG grant application is in the works! The goal is to establish a mobile collection system—the first in Massachusetts—in which a specially equipped truck will come straight to our towns and cart the stuff away to a permanent collection site. It will operate like a bookmobile and go each month to a different town. This would avoid the inconvenience of saving our HHW and waiting for a yearly collection day.

The program would also enable our summer residents to dispose of their

HHW. Sheffield and Lee are joining our five towns in this effort, and others will undoubtedly jump in when they see how good it is. Laura Dubester of CET has been working all summer on a grant for the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Solid Waste Management District., of which we are one. Should the grant be approved, CET is prepared to work with all our communities to get this program set up. Wish us luck.

The Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also has other grants out there, and we are applying for a number of things. There are plastic benches, planters, recycled paint, traffic signs—all sorts of things available through DEP grant programs.

Other news

Innovation: You may have noticed that a bulky waste bin has taken up full-time residence at our transfer station. By now I'm sure everyone knows what bulky waste is, but just in case, it is: mattresses, old wood furniture, rugs, TVs, old doors, etc. Metal stuff goes in the metal container, also a permanent resident.

I am proud to say that our town is committed to buying recycled materials as much as possible—everything from paper towels to town stationary. It is very important for each and every one of us to buy recycled products. REcycling can't work if people don't REbuy recycled stuff.

Transfer station rehab project: The final drawings for the bidding process are underway and will finally be going to the engineer for his approval. There have been a million glitches, but it's gonna happen. Honest. I hope sooner rather than later.

There are still compost bins for those who need them. Call me at 528-0550.

— Joyce Scheffey

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Checks to "150th Anniversary Celebration"

THE BIDWELL HOUSE

On Sunday, October 10, from 11:00 to 4:00, The Bidwell House is hosting Fall Family Day as our celebration of the coming of fall and the end of the growing season. This is a wonderful event for the whole family which includes horse-drawn hayrides; an heirloom apple tasting; apple cider pressing demonstration; apple pie contest; old-fashioned games for children; heritage breeds animals; and the quilt raffle drawing.

The heirloom apple tasting will have at least fifteen varieties of heirloom apples to taste and compare. One type will be the French Cava Blanc, which can be traced back to the thirteenth century. What are heirloom apples? Like other antiques, heirloom apples are from an earlier time. They were an important part of the early culinary traditions and were sometimes even part of the folkloric history of a region. The tradition of growing apples was brought to this country by early European settlers. Most early farms had orchards made up of seed trees for cider and grafted trees of usually several different varieties for eating, cooking, and storing through the winter. You can still find remnants of these neglected trees throughout Berkshire County. During the mid-nineteenth century The Bidwell House had one hundred apple trees on the property.

Can you bake an apple pie? Join in the fun and enter your favorite apple pie in the contest. You may win the first-prize blue ribbon. All entries must



© Anita Carroll-Weldon

Gulliver, a Haflinger draft horse, will pull an antique milk delivery wagon for hayrides at Bidwell House's Family Fun Day, October 10.

be made "from scratch" and apple must be the only fruit used. Judging will be at 1:00 p.m. Each contestant gets a free admission to the event.

Jim Kelley of New Marlborough will demonstrate apple cider pressing. Jim will also have apples for sale from his orchard.

Old-fashioned games for children will include wooden hoop rolling; the Game of Graces, in which participants throw and catch small wooden hoops with sticks, never touching them with their hands; egg and spoon races; and three-legged races. And true to the event's theme, there will be an apple bobbing contest.

The heritage breeds animals on display will include Gulliver, our Haflinger

draft horse, pulling the hay wagon, and, from Hancock Shaker Village, Merino sheep, Tamworth pigs, Dominic and Silver-laced White Wyandot chickens, and Cuyahoga ducks. Icelandic horses will be shown by Roberts Woods Farm, and Narragansett turkeys and Pilgrim geese will be shown by Dominic Colombo. The Heritage Breeds Conservancy is an organization devoted to preserving historic and rare domestic animals that are in danger of becoming extinct. These animals often had significant impact on the development of agriculture. Several historic sites, like Hancock Shaker Village, Plimouth Plantation, and Colonial Williamsburg, are actively involved in extensive rare breeds programs.

The winner of the beautiful blue and white "Stars in the Garden" quilt will be determined at the quilt raffle drawing at 3:45 p.m. Good luck to all of you who have bought tickets! Come to the Fall Family Day, enjoy all the fun, and stay for the drawing—you may be bringing your quilt home.

Fall Family Day is partially sponsored by Windy Hill Farm Nursery, Stockbridge Road, Great Barrington, and Barrington Outfitters, Main Street, Great Barrington.

For more information please call 528-6888.

— Anita Carroll-Weldon

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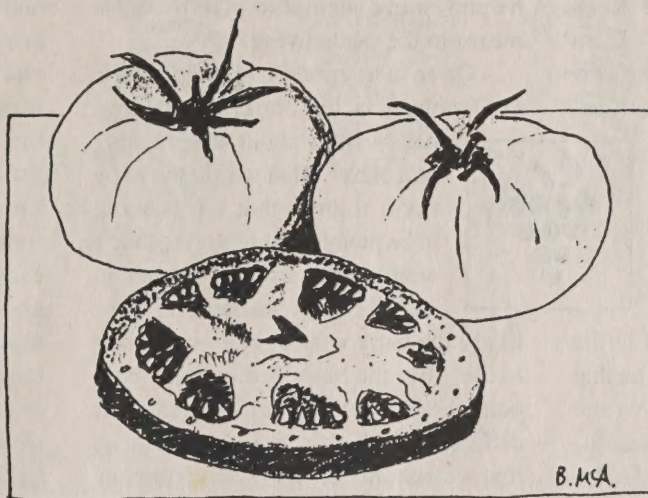
Monterey Food Co-op: The First 25 Years

The Monterey Food Co-op is a preorder food-buying club which has met in the Meeting House (church) basement every month for the past twenty-five years. It was started by several families in town as a way to get good food in bulk, at reduced prices. Every month members have gathered in the church basement to divide up big bags of flour, sixty-pound tins of honey, and gallons of oil. People saved glass bottles and jars, carefully removing the labels, and stored them in the closet by the stairs for repackaging liquids. Members brought in their paper bag collections for organizing the orders on packing day.

Twenty-five years ago the principal supplier of food was called Western Mass. Co-op, and the produce came from a trucking crossroads in Easthampton. The produce coordinator from Monterey would make a predawn trip to the loading dock and pick out good vegetables and fruit to fill the Monterey members' order. In those days there were a few storefront co-ops in New England, but none closer to Monterey than Amherst. If you wanted organic rolled oats, or even unbleached white flour, you could only get it from a co-op or a health-food store. The prices in the health-food stores were prohibitive for some people, so the preorder co-op was a welcome alternative.

For Joe and me, new in town in 1974, the Monterey Food Co-op was a god-

send, not only as a source of good food we could afford, but also as a place to meet people and make friends, the way you do it best: by working on a project together. Joe and I were living in our tipi at this time, clearing land for our garden and house site. We didn't meet many neighbors in the course of our days, and at night we cooked supper over the fire in the tipi and fell into bed as the sun went



down. It is thanks to the Monterey Food Co-op that we got off our diet of hot dogs and white rice and survived our early homestead days, before the garden started producing, without any permanent effects of malnutrition.

Times have changed for us and for the co-op, but we are both still going strong. Joe and I haven't ordered produce in many years, except for a few organic oranges in the dead of winter, because we are able to grow everything we need here on our little farm. We still rely on the co-op for bread flour, though, and a lot more besides. The supplier, now called North-

east Co-op, has moved to Vermont and sends trucks all over the Northeast, including to many storefronts such as the Berkshire Co-op Market. It's no trick at all to find unbleached flour these days, even in Price Chopper or Big Y. Our supplier does lots of packaging now, since they cater to stores, so we no longer weigh out and repack the nuts and oats and millet. We no longer save our jars and fill them with oil or honey or vinegar or molasses. Packing day down at the co-op in Monterey is a much simpler thing than it used to be.

At this point our membership is thirteen families. We all have jobs we do, some on packing day and some at home, such as bookkeeping or collating the order. Our prices are lower than those at the stores, except when the stores run loss-leader sales, and the groceries we get are the familiar ones you see at Guido's or the Berkshire Co-op Market.

Anyone interested in joining this venerable buying club and willing to put in some work time on a Friday morning each month can call David Feinberg at 528-0228 for a briefing.

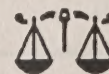
—Bonner McAllester

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Living is Dying Well

As I write this column, Jews are celebrating Rosh Hashanah, their religious new year, usually held in late September or early October (*Tishri* in the Hebrew calendar), depending upon their particular tradition (Reform, Orthodox, or Conservative).

What I find of particular interest is the coincidental celebration of Rosh Hashanah with the Fall season. Even our Gregorian calendar marks the new year in the middle of Winter. Both occur at the beginning or in the middle of Nature's dying. A new year (human life, hope, promise?) is being lifted up even as Nature is going through death. (I realize that this is being written from the perspective of life in the Northern Hemisphere!) Could it be that the natural world, in which we live and move and have our being, holds a clue about living while dying? That the dying we see and celebrate (especially in the autumnal colors) has, in the process, the meaning of life? We are such creatures of our culture, i.e., death denying, that we fail to realize that our death is a huge transition, not a dead end. (No pun intended!) Whether it is the latest medical technology or religious intercession, we expend so much energy hoping for some intervention that will prolong this human life as we know it on this speck of a planet called Earth. Why?

I'm not trying to demean our individual confrontation with death and the letting go of this existence as we know it here and now. I am more interested in providing a broader and deeper context. Part of the motivation is the coming to grips with my own aging. More of my life has been lived than awaits the living, at least here on Earth. So I find the Jewish celebration of Rosh Hashanah helpful in my attempt to plumb what it means to die while living.

Or to use another analogy; John O'Donohue, in his book *Anam Cara*, has written about the birthing of a baby. What would the baby say if it knew that it was about to be pushed out of the mother's womb, have its cord to life cut, and be on its own forever? Most

likely the baby would say it was going to die. "For the baby within the womb, being born would seem like death. Our difficulty with this great question is that we are only able to see it from one side. In other words, we can only see death from one side" (p. 223).

I believe that all of life is embraced by God. I think that we are comprised of energy, as is all of creation. Our physical bodies are simply manifestations of that universal energy. And to be embraced by God is to acknowledge that our physical death is another transformation in the scheme of life. (How is it that death has come to mean the opposite of life? Isn't that a bit presumptuous on our part? I mean, is life

to be understood only as that which we experience here on Earth in this physical body?) This happens in the world of nature all the time. In other words, there is more to life than this earthly, physical life.

Most of us have grown up with some sort of "religious overlay" on all of this. For me, it has been the Christian "overlay." Jesus arrives on the scene and is "resurrected" after dying on a cross. Apart from all the historical and institutional interpretations about what resurrection means, what stands out in the Scriptures is the experience of his little band of followers. They are transformed. They have moved from fearful living to fearless dying. Their little earthly lives have now been embraced and lifted up by an experience and understanding of Life, God. They are no longer afraid to die because they now realize that there is more to life than what they had once known in their Galilean villages.

This may seem to be something of a stretch from Rosh Hashanah! But I think that our lives are filled with "markers," "signposts," that, to the sensitive soul, point beyond the commonplace and mundane to the eternal. But too often we spend our daily lives with blinders that severely limit our vision (literally and figuratively!). To infuse our daily living with this sense of the holy is to know that living is dying well.

— Keith Snow



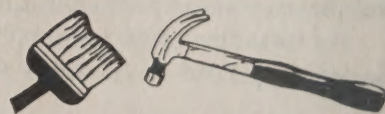
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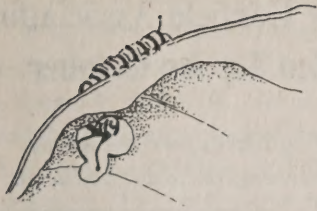
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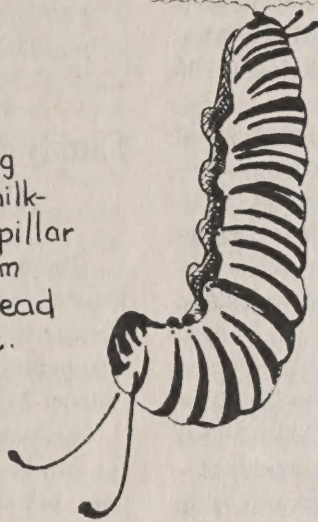
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Metamorphosis



After weeks of feasting on the leaves of the milkweed plant, the caterpillar attaches itself to a firm surface and hangs head down in a J shape.



After 18 hours the antennae wither & hang straight down.



Caterpillar straightens & starts to puff up slightly. Leg bumps are less distinct.

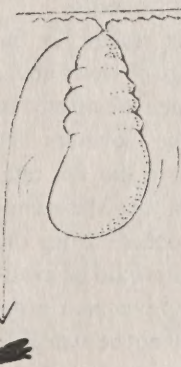
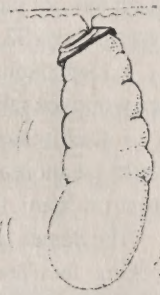
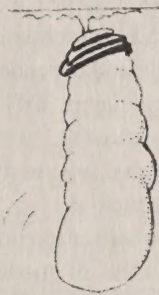


In the next 5 minutes the skin near the head begins to split. A light green form emerges

The green form wriggles until the skin & head is eased up the body like a too tight dress.

Final wriggling discards skin from the top.

In 30 more minutes the chrysalis assumes its final form.



In two weeks a glorious monarch butterfly will emerge (the head now at the top), unfold its wings & make its first flight.

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Senator Says

The Fiscal Budget. The FY 2000 budget impasse continues in Boston. Once Senate President Birmingham and Speaker Finneran resolve tax, education, and other issues, the Senate and House conferees will resume working on the remaining budgetary issues and outside sections.

A major difference between the budget negotiators concerns \$90 million for education. The Senate would like to see this money distributed to school districts and municipalities according to the formulas used for the first six years of Education Reform. Ed Reform was a seven-year program, and local and school officials are relying on the legislature to provide continuity in the funding formula. The House majority and the Governor, on the other hand, have indicated that schools and municipalities have been brought up to the Foundation Budget standard for school spending more quickly than expected. For this reason, they have recommended that the \$90 million be used for statewide education programs rather than local and district needs.

Tax Cuts. Another reason for the budget impasse is a range of views about what kind of tax cut should be offered to Bay State residents. The Governor has called for a reduction in the tax rate, based on an assumption that Massachusetts' share of the proceeds from the national tobacco lawsuit would be available to make up the lost revenue. Unfortunately, this money will not be available until the end of the fiscal year, at the earliest, and the Governor has not proposed program cuts necessary to make his tax cut viable.

The state House of Representatives has also come out in favor of an income tax cut, although not as large a cut as

that proposed by Governor Cellucci. Their proposal would be a percentage reduction in the tax rate for wealthy, middle- and low-income taxpayers alike. The Senate, on the other hand, has proposed tax cuts targeted toward those who need them most. Under the Senate tax cut proposal:

- 275,000 low-wage workers would benefit by a doubling of the state allowance toward the earned income tax credit.

- More people will qualify as "dependents," and the deduction for each dependent will increase. The definition would be expanded to include elderly and disabled dependents. The dependent deduction would increase from \$1,200 to \$2,400 for one dependent, and from \$1,200 to \$4,800 for filers with more than one dependent.

- Seniors of modest means will qualify for property tax relief, and the state will make up the difference so that municipalities do not suffer a loss of revenue. A ratio of property taxes to income will determine which seniors qualify.

- Deduction for rental payments, which has not increased since 1981, will increase from \$2,500 to \$3,500 annually.

- Deduction for child and dependent care would be raised beginning in 2001.

- Deduction for student loans would be increased by making the interest on loans fully deductible.

The Senate tax cuts would ensure that working families and elders of modest means would enjoy much of the benefit of the tax cuts. Municipalities and schools would also fare well under the Senate's budget proposals.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

Lake Garfield Association Eco Tip for October

*Falling leaves feed the weeds,
Plant evergreen to do good deeds.*

Family Network/ Children's Health

People's Pantry will move to St. Peter's Parish Center, corner of East and Cottage Streets, and will be open for distribution every Thursday beginning October 7 from 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Resources for Child Care, a service for families seeking licensing as day care providers, now has a Great Barrington number—528-9125. Working families who need childcare are encouraged to call this service to see if they qualify for childcare vouchers.

Parent to Parent Volunteer Training will begin October 7 at 6:30 p.m. in the Family Center in Great Barrington. The training will be held for consecutive Thursday evenings through November 4. When trained, volunteers are matched with families having a pregnancy or a child under three years of age. Volunteers can give emotional support, information about services and child development, and help transport families to important appointments. Please call the Family Center for more information (528-0721).

A group of parents interested in a babysitting cooperative has been meeting in Great Barrington. If any families are interested in beginning a babysitting coop-

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erative in the towns of Otis and Lee, please call the Family Center in Great Barrington.

A partial list of the October schedule is given below. Please call the Family Network, 528-0721, for complete schedule or to register for events. Events are at 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington, unless otherwise stated.

October 12, 10 a.m., Mom's Chat Time. Childcare provided. A time for moms to meet and discuss common issues. Limited space, so call to register.

October 12 and 14, 6-9 p.m., Infant-child CPR. Otis Ambulance Squad and Fire Department, Fire House, Otis. \$15. Call 269-4409.

October 13, 7 p.m., information on area services for pregnant families or families with children five or younger. Led by Claudette Callahan, Family Network Coordinator, and Janet O'Brien, Outreach Social Worker for Catholic Charities.

October 15, 10 a.m., Otis playgroup. Lower level, Otis Town Hall.

October 16, 10 a.m., Field trip to Gould Farm, off Route 23, Monterey. Meet at the red barns. Visit the animals and experience a working farm.

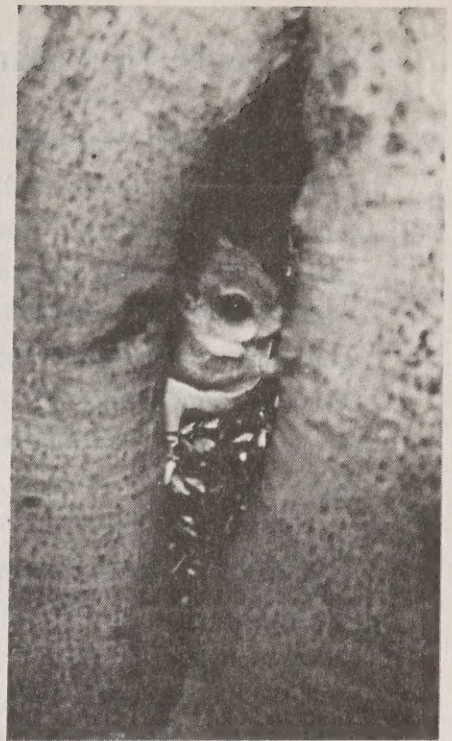
Oct. 18, 5:30 p.m., Single Parents Group Halloween activities. Meet at Southern Berkshire YMCA. Childcare available.

Oct. 23, 10 a.m., Story time at Sandisfield Library. Co-sponsored with Arts Council of Sandisfield.

Rep Rap

The summer sun has set and now we enter one of the most beautiful, and busy, times of the year in the Berkshires: fall. This means school buses will be back on the roads and tourists will be traveling to the county in droves to leaf peep. The summer provided a busy time on Berkshire County roads, particularly on Route 8 in Sandisfield. This route was the site of some very dangerous accidents in recent months. I know that the Selectmen have been very concerned about this matter, and I have undertaken a cooperative effort to promote public safety on the roads.

I have been working with the State Police and the Highway Department. Both offices have taken significant measures to protect the public on this stretch of road. An arrow near the Sandisfield truck escape ramp was modified to more accurately direct runaway trucks on the ramp. Mass Highway has also agreed to install new warning signs between mile markers 4.0 and 7.0 and to conduct field visits to collect data to determine if the speed set on Route 8 is appropriate. The local barracks of the State Police have sent additional patrols to Route 8, and their presence has surely helped to prevent accidents and has deterred drivers from speeding. I am confident that the continued efforts of all parties will reduce the potential for accidents along this stretch of highway.



© Eleanor Kimberley

Eleanor's flying squirrel (see p. 11)

This issue affects many people in the Berkshires who use the roads daily. It is also an example of different government agencies working well together to resolve an issue. Too often we hear how government turns away from local matters that concern the everyday lives of citizens, but that is not the case with this situation. The partnership that has formed to address public safety on Route 8 will reduce the frequency and gravity of accidents on this road.

— Rep. Christopher J. Hodgkins



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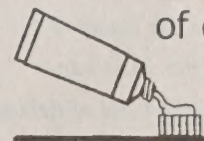
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a saffron sky clamped to the water's lead
and to the west a sinking osprey cried
I walked along alone the beach
to close the shutters of the house
closed the boards over the
yellow elders limp and spilling pollen
on the sill*

*in the living room saw rank death
among the pencils
and the raped paper curling*

*shut out the souging snarls
now spitting on the tarnished teapot
and a napkin blew away
a polite white omen
frail in these latitudes
then quickly to the knocking kitchen
and the hall not firmly sealed
muttering wood
closed every window
pulling the dank darkness
of the slatted shutters shut
it was hard; it was hard to do*

*the stucco house filled with inflating sighs
dimmed and depressed and roared
an implosion here of outer
wild and tropic ocean*

*the bathroom blinds were flapping
the rising winds whistled
and riffled the toilet paper
tearing away a taste of fleeing mint and lavender
palm fronds bared their teeth outside
no razor at all on the still white shelf
come to think of it
eerie mirror*

*a bartering of pressures
a green foaming afar
when I came to the bedroom
curled leaves rolling
rattan bits like vanilla sticks
and a limping spider on the bed
a smell of salt tears
the moaning of an inverse moon*

*I left that door open the sea
and stood among the snapping sails of sheet
to watch everything blow apart
your picture, my brushes, bureau scarves
the lampshades and then the lamps
saw the whipped hibiscus
the yacht club menus flatten
against the wall*

*took off my bathing suit
to the sand sting and rapping air
and watched my skin
contract to blue*

*then I lay down
and put my reproach on your pillow
where your head never lay*

*what the hell!
let the whole damn world
blow away!*

— A. O. Howell

To a Young Squirrel

*Frisking about in the trees you go,
Then hurrying down to the ground below
Where you find the acorns green and brown
That the old oak tree has shaken down.
Surely there must be One on high
Who is looking down from an autumn sky
Bidding you gather the nuts you do
To store for the cold days ahead of you.
How else would you know of the cold and snow?
For you were not here a year ago.
Did your mother turn you out on your own
To gather your winter's food all alone,
Knowing full well that God would care
And show you the nuts that had fallen there.
Then scurry around and gather them in
And hide them away in your acorn bin
There, nestled away where no one knows,
You'll have plenty to eat when the north wind blows.*

— Eleanor Kimberly

September Dragon

*By the still lake at dawn
As the sun touched the glistening alders
And lit up the opal-beaded cattails
One of the smaller dragonflies
Helicoptered to a twig tip, from darting
Speed to sudden, motionless rest.
This lethal lord of the insect world
Had a slim, iridescent ruby body,
Glittering gossamer rainbow wings,
A shaggy, rich brown fur jacket,
A shiny space helmet, fully equipped
With every needful raptor receptor.*

— David P. McAllester

*I don't want to live like a land locked country anymore.
I don't want to grope through my life
like a blind man stumbling through an unfamiliar room.
Never again will I let the words remain unspoken
in a hollow corner of my mouth.*

*I know that we all carry a hidden wound inside us,
a burning that has wintered its way into hearts.
I know that even the dawn can betray us
with a caress made of light,
but I want to believe in this world again.
I want to believe that anything is possible.*

*I want to wake with the owl,
rise above the cold hills,
purr and leap all night long through the fearless stars.
I want to turn a bone-dry desert into a teeming rainforest,
a rusty nail into an erotic lily.*

*I don't want to stop dreaming again.
I don't want to ever stop believing in the magic of this world.*

*I want to stand knee-deep in moonlight
and be swept off my feet by the emerald rhapsodies of a star.
I want to watch the horses at dawn
graze on the uncut diamonds of the grass.
And I want to be there
when summer thunders hurl their beautiful caresses
against the defenseless rivers.*

*No more regrets.
No more sea swept gardens
dismantling themselves in the autumn wind.
No more valleys deep inside me where no one lives.*

*Today I have come to the door.
From me,
a handful of hummingbirds has taken flight.*

— Robert Rose

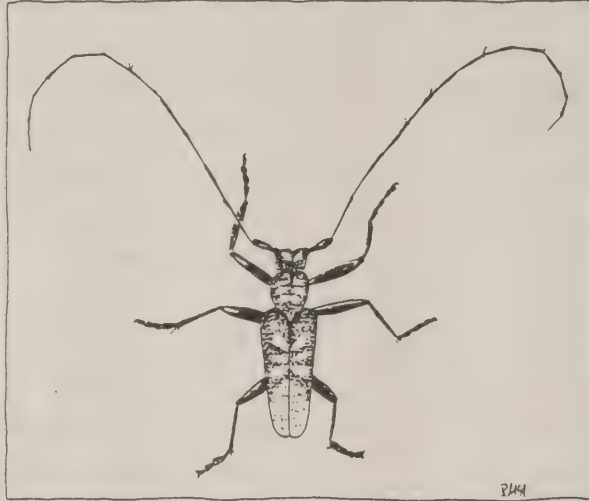
Night of a Spider

I know a few things about spiders, and I am not only favorably disposed towards them, I would say I am totally pro-spider. I am in such awe of spiders that I cannot easily clear their webs from our window corners, and I would never ever kill a spider knowingly. I am so besotted with spiders I probably would never even kill one UNknowingly. Having said all this, I can understand why you might find it hard to believe that the other night I bet on the wrong bug in the doorway. I should have backed the spider all the way—but I was distracted by mere size and weaponry. The clacking mandibles, the thrashing antennae, the long strong legs of the sawyer beetle blinded me to what I really know about spiders: spiders are tops.

The situation was this. I stepped out to call the dog. It was late, and when I put on the outside light a movement under our little doorway roof caught my eye. There, improbably caught in the fewest and smallest of strands, was a big flashy beetle, an adult sawyer. This one was at least an inch and a quarter long, chic in blacks and greys with just a bit of sparkle. It was stuck, though not by much, and it was mad. Well—maybe frantic is the word.

The sawyer is a wood-borer and lays its eggs under the bark of down timber. Eggs hatch, big larvae with wood-crunching mouthparts make their way noisily through the wood, growing by leaps and

bounds. After metamorphosis they are big and tough, with sweeping antennae, longer than their bodies and curved. They are members of a group called staghorn beetles. If you pick one up it will squeak and squirm and if you don't watch out it will bite you.

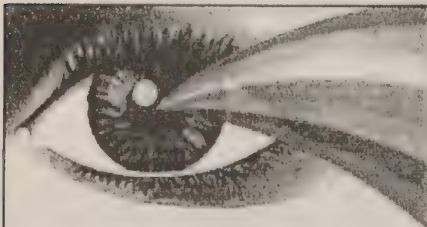


So here was the beetle, in a small web which was getting more ragged by the second. Squinting, I could make out the spider, very small. She was maybe half an inch long with her legs stretched out. She was dancing all around this dangerous monster in her web and I figured she was looking to nip it loose. I know spiders will do this. They will size up the situation and cut their losses, repair the web, and wait for a more manageable meal.

I stood there watching until my neck got sore, and still the beetle didn't fall. Not only did it not break free, but neither was the spider jettisoning it. I thought she was probably so jostled and challenged that she couldn't even manage to ditch the bug and fix up her web. I was tempted to pick the beetle out for her myself, but lately it's tricky for a postmodern ethologist to figure out when it's okay to tamper with the natural course of events, and when to hang fire. Conceivably the whole spider-beetle encounter was directly attributable to the placement of my house, my doorway, my little roof light. So did my responsibility for having set the whole thing up extend logically to influencing its outcome? And if so, should I hit the beetle on the head and help tie the web back together, or should I go get the spider a little cat food or something? I rubbed

my neck and sat down to think it over.

Meanwhile, the beetle raged, the spider danced. I thought there was no way the teeny arachnid body would keep up with the big beetle energy expense. That beetle was in another dimension of dangerous. I myself did not even want to tamper with the situation, I realized, for fear of getting my big strong human finger lacerated. So what chance did a little spider have?



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As it turns out, she had every advantage, and as you will have figured from the start, she overpowered, wrapped up, killed, and ate the big beetle. Being only human, and ready for sleep, I didn't even get to see all this. I turned out the light and went to bed and the drama went on. In the end the big beetle ran out of steam for thrashing but the little spider was still fresh as a daisy. She had paced herself, throwing a new line over her prey whenever she could manage it, fixing up the web here and there with emergency guy-lines. By the time she closed in for the paralyzing bite, the beetle was spent, its mandibles harmless. She injected that armored tank with digesting enzymes and turned it into beetle soup, which she sipped out dainty as you please until it was just an empty container, ready to cut loose and drop to the ground. Then it was just fix up the web a bit, retire to the shadows to sleep off the meal, and wait for life's next moment to come along. This was just another incredible, miraculous, timeless, normal night in the life of a spider—and the death of a beetle.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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About Astrology: Libra's Balancing Act

If he's born with the Sun in Libra, whose symbol is an antique set of legal scales, you'll often find him running up and down the teeter-totter, trying to keep one thing, another, this, that, them, and those all in balance at once. It's exhausting, but almost nothing dims the radiance of Libra's smile.

Unless he thinks you don't love him, or that you're just not playing fair. And he does think those awful things, sometimes. After all, why else would you keep tossing your car keys and bags of groceries down on the antique table in the entryway? Every night?

He's told you more than once how much he loves to look at the warm glow of the polished oak tabletop. Where were you during the conversation about the exquisite proportions of the Venetian glass vase on the table and the way candlelight reflects on the mirror above it, anyway? But he may find it hard to argue effectively with you about it. He may simply not know how.

Libra seems to need a beautiful environment the way the rest of us need air. It's almost impossible for Libra to understand that you may not have that same depth of need. And, no, he doesn't get it that, for you, the table is a utilitar-

ian pit stop between the car and the pantry. Haven't you ever wondered why he walks past the table even if the grocery bags are breaking? It just wouldn't occur to him to violate the beauty of the spot. It's no wonder that here in New England we celebrate the peak of leaf season during the time of Libra (September 21–October 20).

Libra's byword is harmony. Hang around a bit and you'll hear him humming. His speaking voice is often beautiful, too, and, whether he sings or not, he usually has a keen ear for music and poetry.

He also has strong ideas about how the world should run. Libra's your man if you want someone to tell you how to establish beauty, peace, and social justice. So, if he's not working in the creative arts, he's often found in the legal world. Personally, professionally, or both, his life lessons pivot around the apparent contradictions of beauty and utility, mercy and justice, contemplation and action, my desires and yours.

During the time of Libra this year, allow yourself to find a peaceful balance between "I" and "Thou." If you're a Libra, give yourself the love and respect you extend to others. If you're not a Libra, find one. Ask about beauty, or social justice. And listen to what he has to say. You'll both be glad you did.

— MaryKate Jordan

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The Cracker-Barrel Bunch

Right after the white U.S. Mail truck out of Pittsfield pulls up in front of the Post Office to drop off the morning papers, like the Pony Express on its run through town to Otis, the Monterey General Store can be ready for business to open at 8 a.m., with all the news that's fit to print.

The Boston and New York papers and the *Berkshire Eagle* are soon put in place on the metal racks next to the glass pastry case featuring Kay Pratt's wee-hours-of-the-morning labors. Her fresh-baked muffins, croissants, scones, and donuts will soon be ingested along with the editorials, financial reports, sports pages, or horoscope predictions, all washed down with some hot cups of Hotel Brand coffee. A small sign on the front door is flipped from "Closed" to "Open."

Within the next hour, as the waning sun of autumn begins to shine across the Konkapot River and through the easterly windows onto the steady stream of customers visiting the coffee percolators to get wired up for what lies ahead, a handful of people begin to linger and lounge on chairs around wooden tables in the back of the store. To an outsider just coming in after marveling at the antique wooden signs on the front porch advertising tinware, linseed oil, handwrought nails, and licorice, the assembly inside might recall images of a cracker-barrel bunch, even though the wooden barrels of coffee,

cheese, and crackers have long gone the way of the potbellied stove.

Nobody takes credit for calling this meeting and it has no set agenda, but it gathers steam from a public congeniality (no beer or smoking) and free-flowing conversation open to anyone wishing to drop in with a casual comment on the weather or interested in debating whether good country values are going to hell in a handbasket. And as long as Marty Clark, the animal control officer, has time to pop in to tell a funny story, the mindset of the members will never be as sedate as it might be at Starbucks in the Barnes and Noble bookstore.

Rodney Palmer jokes about the group, himself included, being a bunch of swamp Yankees, of Sandisfield rednecks, but he grew up here in the good old days when his father ran the prosperous Palmer Freight Lines; Rod was properly raised with a very disciplined and high standard of good country ideals. His pet peeve is that there is still no year-round public boat ramp on Lake Garfield.

Dick Tryon, senior member, was born here, where he attended a one-room schoolhouse and worked on his dad's dairy farm. The barn, now gone, was actually in the center of town, on the hill across the road from the church. Dick operates Lowland Farm with his son Roger and has a devoted and distinguished career record as past president

of the Massachusetts Farm Bureau. He gets his back up at fiscally irresponsible government, but is otherwise very amenable, and would give you the shirt off one of his scarecrows.

Henry Wolfer best personifies the friendly and humorous spirit that prevails in Monterey. He came to the Berkshires as a student at the Episcopal Lenox School for Boys, also gone. The son of a doctor in New York, he decided he did not want to live anywhere else, although for a short period he studied ecology and zoology in England, after serving with the Allied occupation forces in World War II. He ran the Country Store when it was at the site of Gould Farm's Roadside Store, is very well read, and can enjoy conversing on as high an intellectual level as anyone who will ever walk through the door.

Art Funk has known all of the above all his life, and worked for many years for Palmer Motor Lines. He learned to drive an amphibious landing craft as well in the Pacific, and excels at giving advice to anyone who wants to go anywhere. In spite of tough conditioning in his travels, he is remarkably afraid of snakes, and also constantly worries about those outsiders who might come here to spoil the quality of life in a small town; over the years he has tended to think of both categories as one and the same.

Ray Tryon has been constable and fire chief for many years, and the his-

Peter S. Vallianos
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tory of his family in these parts, on his mother's side, the Steadmans, goes back to before Columbus, as this was their native land. Everyone here knows he cuts a mean rug and cooks a great steak, but he has also been described as a genius at mechanical and automotive science, which is why Tryon Construction is fortunately here. His son Leigh has taken over the reins of the company and the huge teams of Percherons that pull the old fire wagon in the parades.

In and out of the store passes the daily parade of a younger generation, the working men and women who do not have time to sit around. They include

members of both Tryon families, as well as Amsteads, Briggses, Makucs, Funks, Wolfers, Thorpes, Thorns, and Heaths.

When Mike Mielke comes in, he brings an authentic country heritage to the table. He is a living replica of a young man in Norman Rockwell's famous painting in the *Four Freedoms* collection, the one entitled *Freedom of Speech*; Mike could have modeled for this classic illustration of a working man getting up to speak at a town meeting. When the real Mike is confronted with the cracker-barrel bunch, even if he appears to be walking on eggshells and choosing his words carefully, he always makes a point of speaking his mind.

The cracker-barrel bunch together represent more than three hundred and fifty years of living and learning. They were raised by parents who struggled through the great depression and saw prohibition come and go; they have seen World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and each could fill a chapter in Tom Brokaw's best-seller *The Greatest Generation*, for that's what they have lived to become. The next time you are in the store, say hello—and be sure to pick up the next issue of the *Monterey News*, right next to the front door.

— George Emmons

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Fiber Arts at Gould Farm, 2: Interview with Harriet Phillips

The weaving studio at Gould Farm, the subject of last month's column, was named for Carol Hartshorn, a weaver who established the craft at the Farm, and first underwrote the studio's expenses. I learned more of the studio's history when I spent some time with longtime Gould Farmer, Harriet Phillips.

Always an active community member, Harriet made some braided wool chair seats in that studio. They were done in the Shaker style, and were given to Hancock Shaker Village. Sister Ann, who lived at the Shaker City of Peace, was also a weaver, and there was an active exchange among the fiber artists of the two communities.

Harriet told tales of a later head of the weaving studio who also had a great impact on the community, a woman she still refers to as Mrs. Winchester. Beginning in 1972, Harriet was Mrs. Winchester's assistant. In that role, she helped thread the looms and "did a lot of knitting and crocheting."

"I enjoyed it," Harriet said in a spirited voice, "but I refused to do tatting!"

At that time, she said, the work done

in the studio brought income to the Farm. Orders were taken for knitted squares for afghans sold through Jennifer House, which also sold handbags woven at the Farm. Harriet showed me one she has saved, a honeysuckle pattern woven in black and periwinkle blue.

At that time there was also a little shop on the first floor of the studio, which brought in more income. In one year, Harriet said, the shop made \$500.

The samplers of overshot weaving patterns hanging on the studio walls are Mrs. Winchester's work. One of the woven samplers on the east wall has an embroidered motto that sums up much of the optimistic faith from which the Farm was born:

The glad sun
exulting in his might
comes from
the shadows
of the night.

Rose Forman (Roma), a familiar figure at the Farm today, worked with Mrs. Winchester to develop an overshot weaving pattern which Mrs. Winchester later wove, Harriet said. Now it hangs over the fireplace in Roma's home. David Markwood and Loul McIntosh remember Mrs. Winchester, too, Harriet added. The weaving teacher's presence is still felt at the Farm, by those who knew her and those who never had that privilege.

MaryKate Jordan

P.O. Box 9, 01245

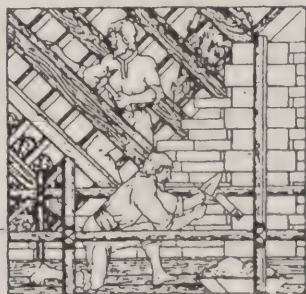
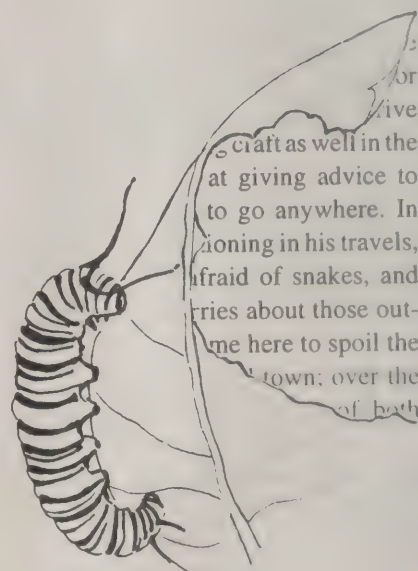
Restless Multitudes

To the Editor:

The multitudes are restless, longing for the Community Supper. This treasured, historically monthly covered dish gathering has taken a break. Let us now resume a Monterey tradition. The cooling weather and longer evenings turn our thoughts to a cozy, food-based shindig with neighbors—and usually a *special attaction*.

May I volunteer for the "set-up" committee? Let's do it!

— Donald B. Victor



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Thanks to Fire Department

To the Editor:

One a.m. Sunday morning, September 19, a crackling sound woke us up. It was coming from ten yards away; our neighbor's house was engulfed in a bright yellow wall of fire. We called 911 and within minutes the Monterey Fire Department arrived. The burning house could not be saved. The volunteer firefighters focused on protecting our house and that of our neighbor on the other side of the fire. Fortunately, the ground had recently been soaked by Hurricane Floyd. Fortunately, there was absolutely no wind that night. Most fortunately, however, we had the Monterey Fire Department, an efficient, well-trained volunteer department under the direction of Chief Tryon. In addition to the Monterey volunteer firefighters, many other regional fire companies arrived and helped save our home. The firefighters were not only effective in controlling the fire, they were also sympathetic and understood our fears and concerns. In the middle of everything that was going on, Paul, the Fire Marshall, made sure that the neighbor's cat was accounted for.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who came out on Sunday morning and who worked until the fire was under control and no longer a danger to our home. Our heartfelt thanks to all.

— John and Sue Schmerler
Lime Rock Lane

Remembering Kay Sellew

Kay Sellew, 83, of Branch Road, New Marlboro, and New Marlboro Road, Monterey, died Monday, September 6 at her home.

Born Caterina Louisa Spadaccini in Mill River on July 16, 1916, she was the daughter of Charles and Melvina Spadaccini. The Spadaccini family farm was in Hartsville where Hillside Restaurant is today. Rose Spadaccini Zilka and her husband, Stanley, opened Hillside Restaurant and Kay was a waitress there for many years.

She lived her life with seemingly endless energy. In the 1960s, she was an active fundraiser for the Mount Everett Scholarship Fund and the American Cancer Society. In later years she supplied the Monterey General Store and local farm stands with her famous blueberries. She and her husband, Welles Sellew, also delivered Monterey Chèvre to local stores and restaurants every week for many years. Her husband of fifty-one years, Welles Sellew, died this year in late July.

She leaves a daughter, Susan Kay Sellew of Monterey; two sons, John



© Wayne Dunlop

Hamilton Sellew of Monterey and Sanjiban Welles Sellew of New Marlboro; two sisters, Eva Morrison of Great Barrington and Anne Crine of Hartsville; and six grandchildren.

There was a quiet family gathering at the New Marlboro cemetery on September 12. Her life was celebrated with stories, songs, and her favorite foods.



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PERSONAL NOTES

Congratulations to **Mark and Mary Makuc** on the birth of their daughter, **Marya Veronica**, last month. Marya's timing was wonderful, for she arrived on September 9, giving Monterey its very own 9/9/99 baby.

Happy Birthday on October 1 to **Rita Gottlieb** and **Karla Eileen Brady**, to **Jim Gauthier** and **Mabel Sheridan** on October 2, to **Giuliana Raab** on October 4, to **Oriana Raab** on October 6, to **Joseph Makuc** and **Tom Thorn** on October 9, to **Karen Shreefter** on October 11, to **Dave Quisenberry** on October 12, to **Taylor Amstead** and **Jeri Palmer** on October 17, to **Jill Amstead** on October 19, to **Ian Rodgers** on October 22, to **Claire Mielke** on October 24, to **Glynis Oliver** and **Elizabeth Orenstein** on October 26, and to **Debbie Mielke** on October 27 and to **Gisela Freundlich** on October 31.

Happy Anniversary on October 5 to **Dick and Barbara Tryon**.

Colm Higgins is in the cast of Joan Ackermann's new musical, *Isabella*, at Mixed Company in Great Barrington. The show runs every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 8 p.m., through October 23.

Congratulations to **Susan Sellew** of Rawson Brook Farm whose goat cheese (Monterey Chèvre) was selected for inclusion in a recent celebration of women's role in agriculture and cul-



© Wayne Dunlop

Welcome back, John! Ed Dunlop greets John Humphrey at the post office.

sine. The celebration, "Through Women's Hands III," was highlighted by a dinner in Albany on September 27.

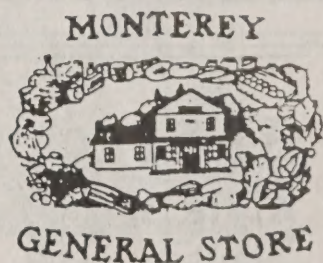
After the summer heat, the cooler nights are very pleasant as October begins. Enjoy the early autumn, especially the days before the leaves fall and raking gets underway, and take a moment to tell us your news. We enjoy hearing your news, and passing on birthday and anniversary greetings. If you have any you would like to share, please drop me a line at P.O. Box 351, Monterey, MA 01245. Thank you so much.

— Ann Higgins

Contributors

We are grateful for contributions recently received from

Ruth Rosenblatt
Judy Mortenson
William Bell
Michael Wilcox
Edward & Nadine Cohen
Leo & Miriam Schreiber
Steven Snyder
David & Jennifer Quisenberry
William & Marie Bell
Donald B. Victor



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~ Old-time Games for Children (gift certificate prizes awarded) ~

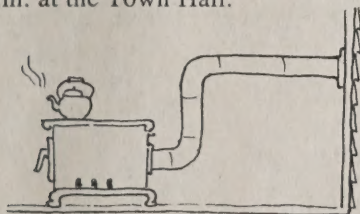
~ Food by Gould Farm ~ Quilt Raffle ~

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Flu Clinic

Cold weather—flu and pneumonia weather—is approaching. Monterey residents who fall in the target group are urged to get inoculations against flu and pneumonia. A free inoculation clinic is offered by The Berkshire County Visiting Nurse Association in Monterey on Tuesday, October 19, from 9–11 a.m. at the Town Hall. The target group is people over 50 (especially those over 65) and people of any age who have chronic cardiac or pulmonary conditions. Participants who are covered by Medicare are asked to bring their Medicare Cards.

The Blood Pressure/Cholesterol Check Clinic regularly offered by the VNA on the third Tuesday of alternate months is next scheduled for November 16, 1999, between 9:00 and 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall.



Linda Rabiner Hebert
Broker Associate, GRI, CRS, CRB



CENTURY 21 A. Perras Realty, Inc.
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Calendar

Friday, October 8, Work day at Brewer Pond Trail, 9:00 a.m.–12:00. Meet across the road from the town beach, to level the trail along the embankment. Bring shovels. Cookies, lemonade provided. Call Bonner, 528-9385 for information.

Saturday, October 9, Annual Firemen's Ball, 7:30–11:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall. Reservations required. Tickets and information, Ray Tryon, 528-2982.

Sunday, October 10, Fall Family Day, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. at The Bidwell House, Art School Road, Monterey. Heirloom apple tasting, apple cider pressing demonstration, rare breeds animals, apple pie contest, quilt raffle drawing. Admission: adults \$3, children \$1. Information 413 528-6888.

Monday, October 11, Town Offices closed in observance of Columbus Day.

Saturday, October 16

Household hazardous waste collection, Great Barrington Transfer Station. Preregistration may be required. For information call Center for Ecological Technology, 1-800-238-1211; ask for Jamie or Joy.

Sandisfield historic house tour, 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. Tickets \$15 each or \$25 per couple at Sandisfield Arts Center on Rt. 57 and Hammertown Road. Hot lunch available for \$7.50.

The Observer

August 26—September 25

High temp. (9/4) 89°
Low temp. (9/23, 24) 40°
Avg. high temp. 74.8°
Avg. low temp. 52.0°
Avg. temp. 63.4°
High wind gust (9/17) 37 mph
Total rainfall 9.84"
Precipitation occurred on 15 days.
Barometric press. data not available.



Information 258-4904.

Monday, October 18, La Leche League, 10 a.m.–noon at Guthrie Center, Great Barrington. Free advice and support for breastfeeding. Information and directions, Maureen at 528-6619.

Tuesday, October 19, Free flu/pneumonia inoculation clinic, 9:00–11:00 a.m. in basement of Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Association. Those who have Medicare Cards should bring them.

Saturday, October 23, Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m. at the Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Stix. All dances are taught, and beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults \$5, children \$2. Information 413-528-9385.

Hear ye, hear ye!

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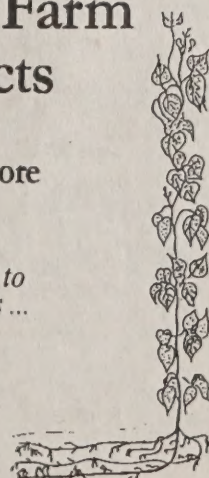
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Our editorial address is *Monterey News*, P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs from readers. Please send submissions (on PC disk if possible) by the fifteenth of the month before publication, addressed to the attention of the Editor. Send any change of address, or initial request to receive the

News by mail (free!) to Barbara Tryon, Business Manager. We will typeset a text-only ad for your Monterey-based business, service, or event, or advertisers may submit an ad with graphics on a PC formatted disk. Address your request for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us in Monterey at 413-528-4347.

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Contributions from local artists this month: George Emmons, p. 15; Bonner McAllester, pp. 2, 5, 12, 13; Glynis Oliver, pp. 6, 7, 16, 19.

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